

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful telephone conversation of January 19, 2005.

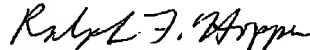
The sole rejection set forth in the final Office Action of September 7, 2004 was the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,161,112 to Cragun et al. (Cragun) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,601,232 to Burba et al. (Burba).

Applicants note that the present invention, app. no. 09/488,511, was commonly-owned with subject matter of app. no. 09/081,449, which matured into U.S. patent 6,161,112 by International Business Machines Corporation at the time the present invention was made. This is documented by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Notice of Recordation of Assignment recorded January 20, 2000 for app. no. 09/488,511 at Reel 010563, Frame 0101 and by the Recordation of Assignment recorded May 19, 1998 for app. no. 09/081,449 at Reel 009213, Frame 0343. See also the enclosed STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP TO DISQUALIFY A REFERENCE UNDER 35 USC § 103(c).

Therefore, under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove U.S. patent 6,161,112 as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and withdraw the rejection under Cragun and Burba.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any other issues to address.

Respectfully submitted,



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